8526*

The Engliſh Guzman:

OR,

Captain Hiltons Memoirs,

With Several other of the

GRAND INFORMERS.

WHether *Madam Hilton* has yet received an Expreſs from her Son of his *Knight-hood*, I am not Informed; but it is fear'd the good Old Gentlewoman may expire at the News, and the ſame Angel that brought the Meſſage, carry away her Soul: Great Expectations there are of the Iſſue of affairs in *Hungary*, but much greater hopes now that an old Prophecy is like to be fulfilled.

The time ſhall come, That Doctors and Knights
Shall be as common as Woodcocks and Snites!

And really, if Mr. *Narrative* be once made a *Doctor*, and our *Captain* a *Knight*, it bids as fair towards the Accompliſhment, as any thing I have heard theſe ſeven years: Let the Learned determine, Whether the *Sacred Scarf* will more adorn the ones *Neck*, or the *Gilded Spurs* become the others *Heeles*. But ſurely as the *Pack-horſe* will travel more cheerfully at the ſound of his own *Bells*; Sir *John* muſt trudge about his Errands of Reformation with delight, at the Muſick of his own *Harmonious Heeles*.

Amongſt the Odd Miſadventures that befel our Knight, in the days of his Errantry, I am loth to omit, and yet know not how to Relate his Travels in or near *Smithfield*, where he *Lodg'd*, (or to ſpeak more properly) *Quarter'd* at the houſe of a good Old Woman, but what he did *in the Sheets*, or what he did *with the Sheets*, his Landlady can beſt relate, for I cannot perſwade my Pen to ſhed one drop of Ink on ſo ſad an Accident: I ſhall therefore wrap up the bad buſineſs in *Fair Paper*, though he was not ſo Gentile as to do it in *Clean Linnen*.

But now the great Soul of our Captain, breath'd nothing but Coach and Horſes, he began to ſmell the Reek of Honours, to ſupport which Grandeur he falls upon ſeveral *Aldermen* of the City of *London*, and ſingles out Sir *Robert Clayton*, againſt whom to Commence a Suit, for not doing his duty in diſturbing and Suppreſſing *Conventicles*, And who can blame him? There is a fine Seat, Nobly adorned with Plantations of Beautiful Trees, and every way inviting the eye, and the Appetite, if he could come at it, and would have made a fair *Knights-fee*, to maintain his Preſaged Honour: Againſt this Gentleman he brings his Action, and formally ſet forth in his Declaration how the Defendant had Refuſed to anſwer the *Spur*, when *Jockey* would have prompted him on in the Work of *Reformation*: The matter comes to a Tryal in *Guild-Hall*, Witneſſes were all ready cut and dryed, and Counſel learned in the Law, were fee'd to Agravate the Crime; when from an ill quarter came a Whiſper of the *Captains Recorded Forgery*, and ſo a Hopeful Deſign was blaſted, and Sir *Roberts* Plantations ſtand entire where they did, and may they e ver-flouriſh in his Poſſeſſion!

One thing was Remarkable in this Tryal, that our *Captain* ſwore in the Court, *That he was not to have or ever expected any profit or Benefit by the Suit, in Caſe it was carryed againſt the Defendant*: And yet where to maintain the White Beaver Hat, the Periwigg, the blew Velvet Cape, the Sword, and other Gallantreys, due to a perſon of his Character, unleſs from theſe Fines, is not imaginable.

One peculiar Talent the Captain has been faithful in laying out, to compound with

Delinquents, when their goods were distrained or the Moneys Levyed; Defrauding the King, the Poor, of their Respective third parts, and Pocketing up what he could get to his own use. A few instances of these pranks will satisfy the Reader.

One Mr. *Barham* of *Hackney*, had his Goods distrained upon the tenth Conviction, for preaching at a Conventicle: The Warrant was issued out against him by the Name of *George Barham*; but some Errors being committed in the Prosecution, Mr. *Hilton*, (for he was then no better) acknowledges his Mistakes against him, by the name of *Arthur Barham*, and at last takes a small sum of Money to discharge the Goods, and seales a general Release to him by the Name of *Anthony Barham*; but whether he was *George*, or *Arthur*, or *Anthony*, it makes not a farthing matter, for *John* went away with the Money, and the Poor and his Majesty must get their shares where they can find 'em.

Two persons about *Druery Lane* had their Goods distrained for ten pounds a piece, the Money on the behalf of one of them was paid into the Justices hands, and an Appeal brought in due form of Law to the Sessions; but our Captain who durst not much confide in the merits of his cause, believing that a small sum certain would be more for his Occasions, then a greater that must run the hazard of a fair Tryal, ingeniously Compounded the matter for thirty Shillings in hand, and in Conclusion, the ten pounds were restored, his Majesty and the Poor cheated, but all parties else very well satisfyed, especially our Captain, who assigned the 30 s. to his own *Privy Purse*, and other *secret Services*, which the Vulgar are not concern'd to understand.

Our Ancestors I observe were always jealous of this brood of Informers, that they would prove the Plague, and Pest of the Nation: and therefore I find that in the narrow Compass of a few years, four Acts of Parliament were made to restrain their Exorbitances, 18 *Eliz.* 5. 28 *Eliz.* 5. 31 *Eliz.* 10. 21 *Jacob.* 4. Now if it should happen that our Captain, or any of his Accomplices should be prosecuted upon one of them (as I am assured some of them will) the Offendor upon Conviction must Shoo the Wooden Horse, and be Casheer'd the service of an Informer for ever.

For the *Religion* of our Captain, I am much to seek, though something was intimated in a former Paper, to be toucht upon in the matter, but we are forbidden by the Learned to dispute about *Non-Entities*, and it seems more Ridiculous then to enquire of the *Form* of the Imaginary *first matter*, which is supposed to have *no form at all*: But if we will go by Conjectures, His Extract, his Education were Popish; and I am informed that ---------- *Person*, at ---------- *Board*, gave Assurance there, that if it might be for the Service of his Majesty, he could prove him a Papist: And if we may Judge a Bird by those of the same Feather, he must needs be of that Perswasion: since many of his Accomplices, Agents, Instruments, and such as pass for his Honourary Servants, are undoubtedly of that Wild Religion. At present I give the Reader this only instance: Mr. *Hilton* coming into *Westminster Hall*, in *Michaelmas Term* last, met a Gentleman to whom he was indebted for the Remainder of an Account standing in the Book ever since he kept the Alehouse in *Fetter-lane*; The Captain seeing him, and being, or pretending to be in great haste, the Gentleman askt whither so fast? The Captain answers, That some of his Servants, (for his Majesty allowed him fifty) were prosecuted in the Kings Bench for being Popish Recusants, and he was going to fetch them off. O the Cause! the Cause! What had become of the Good Cause, had not Mr. *Hilton* engaged to Rescue his Catholick Instruments? Such a high value he puts upon himself, as if his Appearance in the Court was more then a *Noli Prosequi*, or one touch of his hand could *loose the Bands of St. Peter*, and all his Proselytes.

I ought not to conceal the Captains Sufferings, and what hard things he has endured from the cruel Fanaticks: It must therefore be understood that in olden time, our Captain having decently disposed of his Lady, held an Alehouse in *Commendam* in *Fetter-lane*, and entrusted a right Vertuous Gentlewoman, you may be sure, to manage the Province: In what Character she stood there, is a Secret; but the Captain stood engaged for the house, the Drink &c. When the smiling Fates called him off from that employ, to those greater Employments, which they had determined for him, the house, and calling was quitted, and some odd Farthings were still upon the score for Ale and Beer: It happened the last Summer that the Creditors, presuming it may be, that he was grown flush in the Pocket, by his late Blessed Employment, gave him by a Bayliff a clap on the shoulder, (that was a gentle place) and hurried him into some blind hole or other, till he had given security for the Money, on the first day of *Michaelmas* Term; but Perquisites of his place, all his Compositions, all his thirds, have not yet discharged the Debt; besides what he owes for Garret-rent, and Belly-Timber, about *York*-Buildings. But thus much

much at preſent of the Story of the Captain, which the Reader may (if he pleaſes) ſtyle *Hilsons Remains.*

A *Second* to our Captain, (if he be a *Second*) is *Gabriel Shad*, a Brother of the Fraternity of Informers, whoſe Exploits would fill the *Wooden Legend:* VVhat firſt, what laſt to inſiſt upon, is difficult to reſolve; matters crowding and thronging ſo faſt upon us, that we cannot pleaſe all, and ſome muſt be poſt-poned.

The firſt thing I take notice of, bears date 1675. when he robbed one Mr. *Leman*, a worthy Citizen, of about *Three Hundred Pounds worth of Tobacco:* But he could not carry off the Roguery ſo cleverly, but he was taken, committed to *Newgate*, Indicted and Convicted, and upon the 14th of *April* 1675. *BURNT IN THE HAND:* A Perſon of his Merit, it ſeems, might Challenge the *Benefit of his Clergy*, &c.

From *Newgate* he was Tranſplanted to the *Fleet*, whence attempting to make his eſcape, he was forced to do *Pennance* according to the Diſcipline of the Colledge, by ſtanding in Irons, in a *Hogs-head*; which is one reaſon why, in revenge, he ſeverely Proſecuted *Tub-Preaching*: wherein if the Reader will be curious to be Informed, let him conſult the Records of thoſe Priſons.

In the year 1678. the Chronicles find him at *Coventry*, where he openly declared himſelf to be a Papiſt, and refuſed to take the *Oath of Allegiance*; Nor is it any wonder that he ſhould in that juncture declare himſelf, when the Plot was juſt ready to break out, and many went to *Rome* before hand, for fear of being ſtifled in the Crowd. But becauſe the World will not believe what Neighbours it has, I ſhall give a true Copy of the Warrant, under the Hand of Two of his Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace, by vertue of which he was ſent to *Lobs-Pound*, and he has hated that *Name* ever ſince.

Civitas Coventr. } To *Henry Tailor*, Keeper of His Majeſties Goal For the City and County of *Coventry*.

WE whoſe Names are ſubſcribed, Two of His Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace for the City and County of Coventry, *do herewith ſend you the Body of* Gabriel Shadd, *who declareth himſelf to be a* Roman Catholick, *and hath refuſed* to take the Oath of Allegiance, *according to the Statute in that Caſe, made and provided: And in His Majeſties Name Command you to Receive him, and ſafely to keep, till he be delivered by due courſe of Law. Hereof fail not as you will anſwer the Contrary. Given under our Hands and Seals the Thirtieth day of* October, *in the Thirtieth year of* King Charles *the Second, over* England, &c. Annoq; Domini, 1678.

Extra Copia:
Henry Taylor,
Samuel Throughton,
S. Gilbert,
Thomas Hudſon.

Nath. Harriman.
Thomas Bewley.

From *October* to *December*, he lay in the Goal, peremptorily refuſing to take the *Oath of Allegiance*; and yet he can conſcienciouſly Proſecute the Diſſenters as Rebels and Traytors, who are ready to take the ſaid Oath, and to give further ſecurity for their Loyalty. Being weary of a Priſon, he fairly gave his Landlord the Dog to hold, yet with this Civility, that he left a Letter behind him to the Goaler; of which, becauſe it will further give light to his ingenious Knaveries, I ſhall from the original give the Reader a Copy.

To ſe For Mr. Henry Taylor, *preſent.* 24 *Decemb.* 1678.

SIR,

COuld I have believed I might not have met too much prejudice and ignorance among the Magiſtrates (ſet on for hanging up the Gates of your City) I ſhould not have been afraid to appear before them at the Seſſions, notwithſtanding the ſeverity of His Majeſties Laws; but have hoped to have received his Clemency, as others have afforded them, who are committed on the like occaſions. And further I do aſſure you, that I am not fled from Juſtice, but have taken the opportunity to remove to that place where it may be juſtly adminiſtred: And therefore purpoſe to render my ſelf a Priſoner to one of the Capital Priſons, where I cannot be refuſed entrance, for a Reaſon to me beſt known. Sir, I now have to ſay ſomething to your Place and the Debt I owe you. Firſt to your Place; No Law can hurt you, I making good what I have written: And as to your Debt, God can be my witneſs I have attempted ſuch ways for

payment,

payment, that had it not been for your ſake, I ſhould both have bluſhed, and ſweat to have thought of, much more to attempt: (Warwick for that!*) but be confident if I live, you ſhall have your Debt. Pray therefore follow my Direction,* I *am debted to you,* 2*l.* 10*s. or thereabouts. Mr.* Holmes *(the cauſe of my misfortune) hath in his hands, Goods of mine to the value of* 30*s. and upwards: I have in my Chamber in Goods, and to the like value, Mr.* John Olives *oweth me ten ſhillings, as by the will appear, Thus it is: If you would have your money preſently paid, let no one ſee my Goods in my Chamber, until you have your money: I have contrived that Mr.* Holmes *may have a Letter ſuddenly after I am gone; which informs him, I have left my working Tools, and other Goods, not giving him the particulars. And deſire he will he will pay the money I owe you. He from the great zeal he hath to this Trade, will ſuddenly pay the Sum, reſt ſatisfied your money is well ſecured: and for your civil uſage, I am alwayes ſecured,*

Your loving Servant, Gabriel Shadd.

Now although I dare not mend forms and Falſe-Engliſh in this learned Letter, which I am affraid the Printers over-officious zeal will do, yet methinks a *Text* ſo authentick ſhould not want a ſhort *Comment*, which for the Readers ſake I will here preſent him.

Prejudice and Ignorance amongſt the Magiſtrates,] 'Tis the uſual method of Papiſt to arraign the Juſtice of the Kingdom, when any puniſhment is inflicted on their Fellows.

Set on for hanging up the Gates of your City] 'Tis poſſible they had more prejudice at thoſe that pluckt them down: but if they had hanged up *Shadd* there, they had certainly rewarded m according to his works.

The ſeverities of His Majeſties Laws] Yes, every thing is ſevere to *Catholicks*; but *Gabriel* never complains of his own ſeverities contrary to Law; but all is cruelty that is inflicted on them according to Law.

Hoped to receive his Clemency as others have afforded them, who are Committed on the like occaſions.] That is, for refuſing to take the Oath of Allegiance, a ſecurity to Government, which every Loyal Subject ought to give: but ſee how the Inſinuator would ſeduce us to believe His Majeſties Indulgence to Papiſts; and as if it were the common practice to abate them the Common Teſt for Loyalty.

I *do aſſure you I am not fled from Juſtice.*] A rare invention to break the Goal becauſe he would not fly from Juſtice! But it ſeems he fled onely from Countrey-Juſtice, ro *Weſtminſter*-Juſtice.

But I *took this opportunity to remove.*] I ſuppoſe when all were drunk, or faſt aſleep; or ſome ſuch happy opportunity.

And therefore purpoſe to render my ſelf to one of the Capital Priſons] Very proper! whether ſhould a Capital Offender remove, but to a Capital Priſon? and yet it is queſtionable whetherever he Executed his purpoſe; It ſoon began to languiſh and die, and ſcarce out-lived its firſt breath: for the next news we hear of him after ſome vagaries and Pranks, was his Commitment.

They cannot refuſe me Entrance.] No doubt he has provided well for that: for what Goaler can refuſe him admittance, who carries his *Mittimus* engraven in his *Hand?* But hereafter it may come to be a Book Caſe; That none ſhall be refuſed a Goal, that have a mind to it.

For a Reaſon to my ſelf beſt known.] Yes! and to all the world beſides! though I deny not *Gabriel* may have twenty Reaſons why he deſerves a Goal, and a Gallows too, which none yet knows but himſelf.

No Law can hurt you, if I do as I *have written.*] *Shads Caſe!* for the indemnifying all Goalers upon Eſcapes.

I *have attempted ſuch ways for payment, that* I *ſhould have bluſhed and ſweat*] Who can believe that ev er he ſhould have grace enough to bluſh, though every one knows he has done enough to make him ſweat. The thought of Hanging is enough to put a man in a ſweat in a Cold fit of an Ague.

Warwick for that!] Here is ſome myſtical Roguery coucht under this *Jargon*, which onely a Gallows-Confeſſion muſt diſcoyer.

Pray follow my Directions!] Ay! If you have a mind to come to *Tyburn!*

If you would have your money, let none ſee the Goods in my Chamber] For it is ten to one they will be challenged, and then you may ſeek the money where you can. *Cetera deſiderantur.* Enough for a Penny till next. Farewel.

London, *Printed for* R. Oſwel. 1683.